

NEW MILL  
URBAN DISTRICT.

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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR 1918.

## I.—BIRTHS.

During the year 1918 the births of 82 infants were registered, 41 boys and 41 girls, making a birth-rate of 18.0 per thousand persons belonging to the district per annum. This is about an average rate, but less than the number of deaths.

## II.—DEATHS.

The deaths of civilians belonging to the district numbered 83, 47 males, 36 females, making a death-rate of 24.3 per thousand of the civilian population per annum, which is a very high rate. The death-rate for England and Wales was 17.6 per thousand. In normal times the death-rate for New Mill averaged about 13 per thousand. The increased number of deaths was caused by influenza and pneumonia.

As nine infants died in their first year, the infantile mortality rate was 109.7 per thousand births, which is higher than the rate for England and Wales, which was 97.

## III.—DISEASE.

(a) The 83 deaths were certified as having been caused by the following diseases:—

Measles .....	1
Whooping Cough .....	2
Influenza .....	19
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	6
Tuberculous Meningitis .....	1
Cancer .....	7
Rheumatic Fever .....	1
Organic Heart Disease .....	4
Bronchitis .....	3
Pneumonia .....	10
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	2
Diarrhoea .....	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease .....	6
Congenital Debility, etc. ....	3
Suicide .....	1
Other Diseases .....	16
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	83
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Influenza and pneumonia caused about 30 deaths. The epidemic of influenza seems to have completely ceased, but pneumonia or inflammation of the lungs is always present, and now it has been included among the notifiable infectious diseases, and all cases of acute pneumonia must be reported to the Medical Officer of Health.

The deaths due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis and to Nephritis or Disease of the Kidneys were excessive.

The certified causes of death of the nine infants were:—

Convulsions .....	2
Influenza .....	1
Whooping Cough .....	2
Premature Birth .....	3
Broncho-Pneumonia .....	1
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Total ..... 9

(b) The cases of Infectious Disease notified to me comprised

119 Cases of Measles.

1 Case of Scarlet Fever.

4 Cases of Diphtheria.

4 Cases of Enteric or Typhoid Fever.

2 Cases of Erysipelas.

2 Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

2 Cases of Tuberculous Meningitis.

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There was a very severe epidemic of Measles affecting Hepworth and Scholes, while Fulstone escaped, excepting a few cases in Jackson Bridge. It interfered with the education of the children, but it only caused one death. The Scarlet Fever and Typhoid Fever were sporadic imported cases, which fortunately did not spread.

Influenza was very prevalent and fatal in the last quarter of the year, but as it was not notifiable the number affected is not known. Influenzal Pneumonia has been made notifiable since March of the present year. All the cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Typhoid Fever were sent to the Isolation Hospital.

#### IV.—SANITARY CONDITION.

Very little work has been done in connection with the water supply or sewerage, but a few more w.c.'s have been constructed, improvements have been effected at the outfall works, and a few new connections with the water mains have been added.

The Sanitary Inspector has continued his inspections of dwelling-houses, farms, cow-sheds, etc. He has issued 25 notices for abatement of nuisances, and 21 of them were complied with. He has chemically disinfected nine houses.

No new house has been built during the year. Very few have been built for many years back, and there is need of better accommodation. The Council has had the subject under consideration for several years, and now they have bought land and plans have been made for a group of eleven houses and another of twelve houses. They will help to supply the needs of one end of the district. I hope the scheme will be successful, and that you will soon be able to repeat the work in other parts of the district.

*A. Thorpe*

*Holmfirth*

